

PHAC-A-2018-000086 - Clarification required

EE

Erica Endemann

Wed 3/20, 11:48 AM

Hello Mr. Bel-Haddad,

I apologize, I thought that I had replied to this email.
The revised wording is acceptable to me. Thank you for getting back to me.

Erica Endemann

BY

Bel Haddad, Youssef (HC/SC) <youssef.belhaddad@canada.ca>

Mon 3/11, 2:13 PM

Hello Ms. Endemann,

A first assessment of your request has indicated the following:

- A large volume of data from different sources would have to be included in our response;
- Some information consists of reports that are publicly available online; and
- While some data belongs to the government, a significant amount of data belongs to third parties, meaning that consultations will be required.

Due to the size and complexity of your request as currently written, we estimate that we will require at least 240 days to retrieve and review all of the records. Therefore we would like to suggest that you consider limiting your request to only spreadsheets and briefing notes so that we can provide you with a response within a shorter timeframe. As such, we would like to propose the following revised text:

“Spreadsheets and briefing notes concerning the number and incidence rate of measles reported in Canada from Jan. 1, 2016 until the present.”

Please let me know if this revised wording is acceptable to you or if you wish to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Youssef Bel Haddad

Junior Analyst
Access to Information and Privacy Division
Planning, Integration and Management Services Directorate
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Health Canada and Public Health Agency of Canada
youssef.belhaddad@canada.ca / Phone : (343) 549-2465
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EE

Erica Endemann

Reply all

Fri 3/1, 7:07 PM

Bel Haddad, Youssef (HC/SC) <youssef.belhaddad@canada.ca>
Sent Items

Hello Mr. Bel Haddad,

Yes, that is acceptable.

Thank you,

Erica Endemann

BY

Bel Haddad, Youssef (HC/SC) <youssef.belhaddad@canada.ca>

Fri 3/1, 12:16 PM

Hello Ms. Endemann,

Could you please confirm if this revised wording of your request is acceptable to you:

“Records concerning the number and incidence rate of measles reported in Canada from Jan. 1, 2016 until the present. Including, but not limited to briefing notes. However, I am not interested in emails.” ?

Thank you,

Youssef Bel Haddad

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Erica Endemann

Thu 2/28, 11:25 PM

Hello Mr. Bel-Haddad,

Thank you for getting back to me, and thank you for the report. It had a lot of interesting information.

I was hoping to get information similar to the report, but past the year 2015. I understand that you may not possess data for the 2018 year. However, I am most interested in looking at the rates of cases of measles.

Would you be able to extend the data on measles concerning figure 2 and figure 3 of the report with the text equivalent, with the most recent existing data that you have currently?

Thank you for your time,

Erica Endemann

Bel Haddad, Youssef (HC/SC) <youssef.belhaddad@canada.ca>

Fri 2/22, 3:44 PM

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7th Floor, Suite 700, Holland Cross - Tower B
1600 Scott Street, (Mail Stop: 3107A)
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9

Our file:PHAC - A-2018-000086 / YBH

Erica Endemann

798 Weston Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1G 1W3

Sent by Email: ericaendemann@cmail.carleton.ca

Dear Ms. Endemann:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your request made under the *Access to Information Act* (the Act) for the following information:

Records from Jan. 1, 2018 until the present concerning the number of illnesses that were treated in hospital that were preventable by an existing vaccination. Including, but not limited to briefing notes. However, I am not interested in emails.

Your request and application fee were received by our office on February 19, 2019, however, we are unable to proceed with your request as stated. Clarification is required in order that we may determine whether the Public Health Agency of Canada has records relevant to your request.

1. **concerning the number of illnesses that were treated in hospital that were preventable by an existing vaccination.**
 - Are you referring to Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPDs)?
 - o Please refer to the following 2015 report for context:
□ <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/vaccine-preventable-disease-surveillance-report-december-31-2015.html#fig1>
 - In this report, VPDs include:
 - o Measles; Rubella; CRS/CRI; Polio; Tetanus; Diphtheria; Hib; Mumps; IMD; Varicella, IPD, Pertussis

- Is there specific sections from that 2015 report that most interest you, and perhaps it could be retrieved from an existing database?

The intent of the clarification process to obtain the necessary level of specificity so that an experienced employee can locate the records within a reasonable amount of time and by using the correct scientific terminology, it helps expedite the document retrieval process.

Please note that you are most likely requesting a custom spreadsheet that does not exist within PHAC. However, there is no legal obligation under the *Act* to create records in order to comply with particular access requests.

However, subsection 4(3) of the *Act* does state that subject to certain limitations, if a document can be created by a machine readable record then it would be considered under the control of the institution. Limitations to the creating these records are: cost to institution, impact on government operations, and availability/monopolization of personnel. In other words, it is not considered to be creating a record if our subject matter experts are able to extract this spreadsheet from an existing database.

The processing of your request will start upon receipt of the required clarification. In the meantime, your request will be put on hold. Should we not hear from you by **March 25, 2019** we will consider your request abandoned and the file will be closed.

Please contact the undersigned either by phone at (343) 549-2465, by email at youssef.belhaddad@canada.ca or by fax at (613) 957-9093, with reference to our file number cited above. In the event that our program officials require clarification of your request in order to properly identify the relevant records, you will be contacted by us.

The Public Health Agency of Canada is committed to assist you with your request and will ensure that every reasonable effort is made to help you receive a complete, accurate and timely response. More information about the Principles for Assisting Applicants is available at: <http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/pol/doc-eng.aspx?id=18310#appC>

Please be advised that you are entitled to complain to the Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada concerning the processing of your request within 60 days of the receipt of this notice. In the event you decide to avail yourself of this right, your notice of complaint can be made online at: <http://www.oic-ci.gc.ca/eng/lc-cj-logde-complaint-deposer-plainte.aspx> or by mail to:

Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada
30 Victoria Street
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 1H3

Yours sincerely,

Youssef Bel Haddad

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